Hardy Fern Foundation NEWSLETTER

Editor Sue Olsen ▣ VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2 SPRING 1992



President's Message

SUE OLSEN

Like most of the nation the northwest has enjoyed a benign winter which was of benefit to both ferns and their custodians. The local fern populations have fared well and the public is invited to see them both at Lakewold in Tacoma and The Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way. A special Hardy Fern Foundation open house will be held on May 31, 1992 at the Species Foundation (see separate announcement) and we hope you will take the opportunity to come learn, see the ferns and meet other members.

We are pleased to report that we have added two more satellite gardens, Birmingham Botanical Gardens in Pelham, Alabama and Georgeson Botanical Garden in Fairbanks, Alaska. We anticipate adding three more gardens to the program and look forward to the day when most of our members will have a fern garden nearby (relatively!).

A second display garden will be planted later this spring at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. This is to be a "hands on" teaching garden under the direction of botany professor Bill Harmon and will be planned and planted by Panayoti Kelaidis and Mary Ellen Tonsing of the Denver Botanic Gardens along with volunteers and students.

To bring you more information about ferns and the gardens where they are featured we are initiating a series with this newsletter on plant profiles and garden portraits. If you would like more information on a particular fern, please let the editor know so we can review it in a future newsletter. Also please note that we have completed arrangements with the American Horticultural Society for our members to enjoy membership in their organization at reduced rates. Membership offers many privileges which are described in the enclosed flyer.

We are continuing our efforts to propagate ferns both for the gardens and membership distribution, and have recently received a consignment of spores from John Burrows, Conservation Officer of Buffelskloof Private Nature Reserve in South Africa. John is the author of Southern African Ferns and Fern Allies, an outstanding work. (I didn't think I needed a book on South African ferns until I saw it!) We look forward to more imports from national and international sources this summer.

This will be my final report as president. It has been an honor, and a privilege, as well as very exciting to participate in the formation of the Hardy Fern Foundation and I look forward to the successful fulfillment of our goals. I want to thank a very hard working and dedicated board as well as friends from near and afar for your commitment and support.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting which will be held at 6:45 PM, June 4 in conjunction with the Northwest Horticultural Society's Fern Festival at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle. The meeting precedes a lecture by Hardy Fern Foundation Vice-President Sylvia Duryee on "Ferns and Flora of the Queen Charlotte Islands". Sylvia is an outstanding photographer and I promise you a fascinating tour of the islands to our north. Do come ... and bring along a new member.

Contents...

2 *Satellite Gardens Put Into Orbit*

3 *American Glade Fern*

4-5 *Great Pteridologists*

6-7 *Happy Birthday B.P.S-part II*

8 *Ferns at Lakewold Gardens*

9 *Botanical Salmagundi*

10 *Yoknapatawpha Dreaming*

11 *Travel*

12 *Calendar*

Satellite Gardens Put Into Orbit

GUY HUNTLEY

Over the past several months the Satellite Garden Committee has been considering different botanical gardens and arboreta around the country with an eye towards establishing satellite gardens.

These satellite gardens are a vital part of the Hardy Fern Foundation's vision, in which varieties of ferns are tested in various areas of the country to better determine their hardiness and garden worthiness. Satellite gardens are sent ferns by the Hardy Fern Foundation for display and testing, a mix of both ferns which the Foundation wants trialed, and ferns which each garden chooses from a list of those available.

Once each quarter the satellite gardens will return a report on temperatures and weather conditions, and in July of every year a detailed report will be returned which evaluates each fern according to how it held up the previous year. Not only will hardiness be reported, but each type's performance in the garden as well. This will help us determine whether a fern has a basis of broad appeal, or is best left to the serious growers. This information will be compiled and presented to the membership so that trends can begin to be established, and a system of recommendations made.

Satellite gardens are selected according to many different criteria, among them:

Climatic conditions
It is our desire to have as wide a variety of climatic conditions as possible, so as to better ascertain a fern's response to a wide array of conditions.

Accessibility
The satellite gardens chosen must be open to the public, so that the ferns can be studied and enjoyed by the members of the HFF, as well as botanists, growers, and the general public.

Planting sites
Gardens chosen all have areas in which the ferns will do well, either as primary fern displays or in mixed plantings.

Staff
Satellites all have selected personnel to care for and report on the ferns sent to them. This is perhaps the most critical aspect of the program, as it is necessary for the ferns to be given a fair chance at survival in each garden, and even more important to obtain the most accurate and complete information on the widest range of ferns possible.

Currently, we are considering or have selected 11 satellite gardens in addition to the primary garden at the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Washington.

Those recently selected are:

Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Pelham, Alabama

California State University
Sacramento, California

Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver, Colorado

Georgeson Botanical Garden
Fairbanks, Alaska

Strybing Arboretum
San Francisco, California

Fernwood
Niles, Michigan

We will send ferns to these gardens when they are ready to plant them, and begin to collect data as it becomes available. Periodic updates on the satellite gardens will appear in future issues of this newsletter.

As each satellite garden is established it is exciting to see the Hardy Fern Foundation put down roots in various corners of the country, and to watch its steady growth towards becoming an organization which can better fulfill the needs of its members.

Thank You

Almost all of the ferns for our display and test gardens as well as sales and distribution have been generously donated by Guy Huntley of Huntley-Green wholesale nursery and Jim Nash of Henry's Plant Farm wholesale nursery. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for their contributions on our behalf.



Athyrium Pycnocarpon



Athyrium Pycnocarpon

a thir'i um pik no kar'pun

American Glade Fern

JAMES HORROCKS

The name Athyrium (Greek) means "shieldless" which does not necessarily seem to be very well fitted to the genus. The species name pycnocarpon, often spelled pycnocarpum in many fern books, means "with crowded fruit" referring to the sori which run from the pinnae midribs almost to the margins.

This is a rather slender graceful fern found in rich deep deciduous woods. It is the only tall deciduous fern found in North America that is but once pinnate. From a distance, in the wild, it may be confused with the Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides)* but up close, the differences are quite apparent. In cultivation, it might possibly be confused with one or two oriental species of the genus Diplazium, to which it is related, and maybe even with *Dryopteris cycadina.*

Description: the rhizome, up to one cm thick, is short, creeping, rarely branching, sending up a short row of fronds. Growing horizontally a little below the soil surface, it retains the old frond bases. The roots are black and wiry, forming large tangled masses.

The stipes are pale, about one half as long as the blade, bearing scattered scales and hairs. The fronds are slightly dimorphic, the fertile pinnae being narrower and more widely spaced than the sterile. The fertile fronds are also a bit taller. The fronds may be three or even four feet tall in favorable spots. The pinnae are subentire, lacking an auricle, and lanceolate in outline. The sori are long and narrow, lying along a series of upward-sloping veins, slightly curving and running from the pinnae midribs almost to the margins. The indusium is long, narrow and curved.

Culture: This is an attractive fern, easily grown if the soil is rich in humus and kept moist. The pH factor should be mostly circumneutral. This fern likes open shade and in humid climates may even be grown in the sun if amply watered. It should be protected from strong dry wind, its most destructive enemy. It is also susceptible to attacks by slugs and snails, particularly in young plants. Propogation is usually from spores since the rootstock rarely branches. It comes readily from spores but the young plants need extra protection. This fern has not been readily available from nurseries in recent years, but it is well worth having for its uniqueness and beauty. It is very cold hardy.

References:

Wherry, Edgar T. 1961 The Fern Guide. Doubleday, New York

Grounds, R. 1974. Ferns. Pelham Books Ltd, London

Jones, D.L. 1987. Encyclopaedia of Ferns. Timber Press, Portland.

Membership Evaluations

GUY HUNTLEY

In June of this year, members of the Hardy Fern Foundation will evaluate our fern plantings at the Rhododendron Species Foundation. Each fern will be assessed according to the same criteria as our satellite gardens, with both hardiness and garden worthiness being appraised.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Sometime during the month of June, please take some time to evaluate your own plantings. We'd be very interested to find out what you have growing, and your opinions on its performance. Results will be collected and compiled for different locales, and will contribute greatly to our information banks. In your evaluations, please tell us the following:

Fern name
Date evaluated
Overall size
Length of new growth

Do you believe it has commercial value?

Please give us your opinion on its value as a garden plant, on a scale from one to five:

one being the lowest, five being outstanding.

Any additional comments you would care to make on either the ferns or your garden would be very welcome.

Remember, member evaluations during the month of June. Please mark a date on your calendar — we look forward to your reviews!

Great Pteridologists

San Diego Fern Society officers Bob Halley and his son Robin have initiated a series of profiles in the society's monthly publication *Fern World* featuring prominent pteridologists of the world. The following is an excerpt from their first article featuring Reg Kaye, a devoted plantsman and beloved human being. Printed with permission from the San Diego Fern Society.

Reginald "Reg" Kaye

Along the Northwestern coast of England in the Lakes District is a modest inlet, Morecombe Bay. Nestled on the west shore of the bay is the tiny village of Silverdale. There in Silverdale you can find a Yorkshireman named Reginald Kaye. Reg is a very familiar figure in English ferns and alpines. He was born just after the turn of the century and got into ferns in a circuitous fashion, as many of us have. I first met Reg when he came to the United States for the first time at the age of 85 to talk at the San Diego Fern Society and stayed with my wife and me during his visit. I have happily counted myself among his friends ever since.

Many of Reg's earliest memories are connected with plants and gardens. He remembers being at the auctions of some of the great fern growers' collections. He remembers when the flower gardens were plowed under to become food gardens during the World War I.

Reg went to Leeds to study chemistry and botany, with the emphasis on chemistry as he had aspirations of becoming an analytical chemist. After trying for some time to get a job with his degree, he started a collection of alpine plants in his mother's garden and started making some money building rock gardens.

In 1924 Reg became a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) where he met Walter Ingwersen. Mr. Ingwersen had started a nursery for alpines near East Grimstead and invited Reg to join his company. Reg agreed and transferred about 2000 alpine plants to Walter's nursery. Reg's hope was to increase his knowledge of alpines, but his ability to work with rock meant he spent about half his time away from the nursery building rock gardens. This also involved Reg being away from home for weeks at a time and after three years Reg tired of the routine. He started looking for a place to set up his own nursery.

In 1929 Reg left Ingwersen's and at Christmas found Waithman's House in Silverdale. The Waithman House property was a 17th century house and 4.5 acres including several natural limestone outcroppings. Reg fell in love and decided to start his new nursery there. He's still there.

During this period Reg had been carting around a specimen of *Osmunda gracilis* which he had discovered in a Yorkshire Nursery ten years previously. This became the basis of Reg's fern collection. At first Reg concentrated on the alpines. He brought his collection from East Grimstead and although he grew and collected some ferns as a hobby, Reg didn't really get into ferns until the late 1930s when he began to acquire several complete collections. Included amongst these is a group of "fine old varieties" from Jimmy Barnes, son of Barnes, one of the great fern collectors. Many of these specimens are still growing in Jimmy Barnes' garden at Arnside, three miles from Silverdale.

Reg has been quite active in the British Pteridological Society (BPS) over the years, serving in different offices, including president. During this time he became friends (or at least colleagues) with many of the well-known names in British ferning of this century. These include Jimmy Dyce, Eric Holltum, Clive Jermy, and Jim Crabbe.

After moving in to the Waithman's House property, Reg made use of his rock garden building expertise and moved many of the limestone rocks (all by hand and barrow) to establish new rock gardens of his design. Often Reg worked alone. Reg built the main rock garden in front of the house for his wife in the 1930s.

Reg has always worked to improve the species he sells and uses his



Reginald Kaye 1991

gardens as a marketing tool. As a result, most of the gardens include a mixture of flowering plants and ferns, many of which he developed himself. The visitor has vistas of ferns, heathers, Dianthus, Welsh poppies, Daffodils, Cotoneaster, and so on.

My wife, Linda, and I have travelled to visit Reg twice now and the echoes of the past are strong in the garden, where many rare and beautifiul varieties hold their own. During our visits Reg always charms us with incredible detailed stories of how he got each plant, what the plant was, and some history of the plant. Included among these plants is the *Osmunda gracilis* which he brought from York in 1929. Despite the fact that the plant is sterile and can only be propagated through division, Reg still has about ten divisions of it living. Although he is one of the greatest living experts on British hardy ferns (he has written a book, *Hardy Ferns*, published in 1968 and later republished by the BPS), Reg is often proudest of the varieties that he has successfully cultivated from other parts of the world.

When it comes to ferns, Reg is probably best known for his work with *Phyllitis scolopendrium*. The Brits call these "scollies" - we know them as Hart's-tongue ferns - and they fill many crevices and crannies in the gardens. Reg has crested scollies, wavy scollies, deeply incised and compacted scollies, and even huge and very tiny varieties. One grows to about two inches in height at maturity. He has had one named after him, *Phyllitis scolopendrium* 'Kaye's Lacerate.'

Reg feels strongly about plants being named correctly and he works to reduce the number of incorrectly named varieties of British ferns. One of his favorite stories about how ferns get misnamed is about a fern which is showing up in the American trade now, *Adiantum pedatum* 'Miss Sharples.' When Miss Sharples, an elderly lady with an extensive fern collection, died, her heirs called Reg. Reg had been a friend and the heirs invited him to take away whatever he liked (they weren't planning to grow ferns). Reg carried away truck loads of plants, among which was an *Adian*tum *pedatum* which he did not recognize. When he got home he marked 'Miss Sharples' on it to remind himself of where he had gotten it until he could determine its correct botanical name. Shortly thereafter Reg was visited by some Dutch growers who loved the plant and wanted some spore. Reg obliged the growers, but despite Reg's explanation about the name, the plant appeared on the market as *Adiantum pedatum*' Miss Sharples.' Reg chuckles at the irony as he tells this story.

The property and the Alpine Nursery have recently been given over to Reg's son, Jeremy, to run and Jeremy is being very successful at it. He does not, however, have Reg's love of ferns and concentrates on growing and selling alpines. Before you despair about Reg's garden, however, there is still a glimmer of hope. Reg's grandson is, at least temporarily, showing a keen interest and there may be the key to keeping Reg's 70-year legacy of fern growing alive in the Lake District.

If you get to the Lake District and Silverdale, drive the quarter mile up Lindeth Road and take a chance that Reg is seeing visitors.

Hardy Fern Foundation Open House

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1992
RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION GARDEN

Mark your calendar for a day of classes and touring at the RSF Gardens in Federal Way. Hardy Fern Foundation members may pick up their spring plant sale preorders between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM. (Please note plant pick up is limited to these hours which are prior to the opening of the garden.) Sue Olsen will give an informal lecture on fern identification at 11:00 AM. This will be followed by conducted tours of the fern plantings - practical ID - at Noon. At 1:00 PM Sylvia Duryee will give a demonstration on growing ferns from spore. Guests will be free to tour the gardens at leisure during the afternoon. The Rhododendron Species Foundation has generously offered free admission to the gardens for Hardy Fern Foundation members attending the open house. Be sure to bring your membership card for identification. See you there!!



Vernece Sharp

Phyllitis scolopendrium
'Kaye's Lacerate'

Happy Birthday B.P.S. - Part II

Joan Eiger Gottlieb

The Symposium celebrating the Centenary of the British Pteridological Society (and reported in Part I of this series) was delectable in its own right, but turned out to be merely an appetizer for 40 of us who participated in the grand tour of British fern gardens that followed the meetings. In a three day marathon (July 12-14, 1991) by motor coach from London in the south to the Lake District in the north, we were treated to a dazzling smorgasbord of private and public gardens, nurseries, and even the grounds of a medieval castle. Martin Rickard, our tour organizer, must have worked tirelessly to arrange the trip and our comforts. Ordinary thanks seem woefully insufficient for his yeoman's efforts.

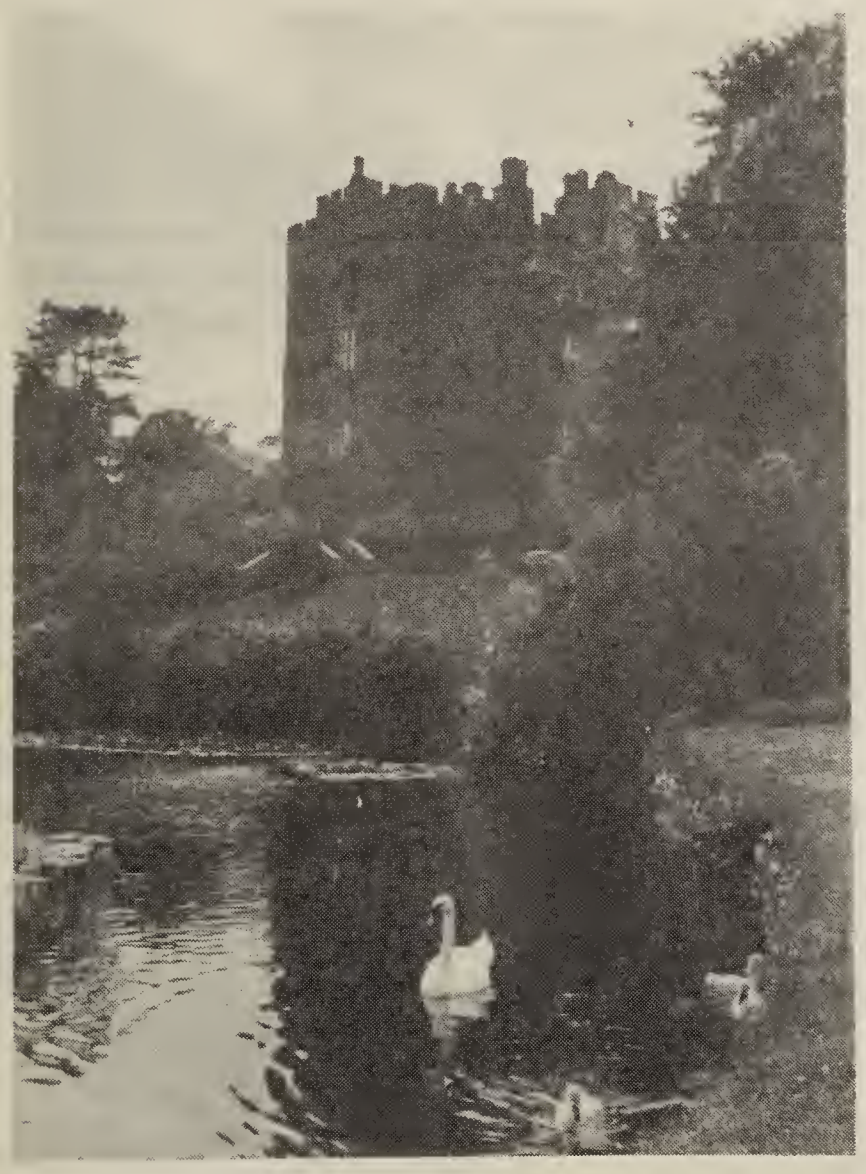
The first course of this fern feast was served by Ray and Rita Coughlin in the acre-sized garden sloping gently uphill behind their charming home in Bromsgrove (Worcestershire - a bit south of Birmingham.) Their garden starts with a meticulously maintained rock area (built of native, gray, Westmoreland limestone,) incorporating water that cascades into several esthetically sited, small pools. Naturalized colonies of *Blechnum penna-marina* (with dimorphic vegetative and fertile fronds) and many varieties of *Phyllitis scolopendrium* compete for eye-appeal with *Lewisia* and other alpine flowering gems nestled into rock crevices. Winding paths lead the visitor up to a slightly higher zone of heaths (azalea and rhododendron) with alpine propagating greenhouses built into the evergreen landscape. Beyond the glass houses one comes suddenly upon two shaded areas planted with a large collection of ferns, including an impressive array of British cultivars. Vigorous specimens of cristate, plumose and other mutants of species popular with the Victorians can be seen and compared in this one garden spot. *Athyrium filix-femina* cultivars 'Victoriae' and 'Frizelliae,' *Dryopteris cristata* 'Angustata,' *Polystichum setiferum*' Plumoso-divisolobum' are but a few elegant examples. After delicious refreshments of British tea and scones we left the Coughlins, hopefully not having tramped too heavily on their garden or their generosity.

Heading north, a long bus ride brought us to the second course in our pteridological feast - 14th Century Sizergh Castle (near Kendal, Cumbria Country, in the Lake District,). To Americans, anything 700 years old is impressive for that reason alone. But Sizergh, with its imposing Peel Tower (built circa 1340), in-earth stables, and spacious, rolling grounds is a preserved moment in time past, thanks to the preservation efforts of The British National Trust. Sizergh's head gardener Malcolm Hutcheson graciously and expertly guided our group around the incomparable rock garden behind the Castle. There we were treated to prize specimens of several National Collection genera - *Phyllitis, Dryopteris, Osmunda* and *Cystoperis.* The National Collection strategy of Britain and Ireland is an attempt by the N.C.C.P.G. (National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens) to preserve the islands' heritage of wild and cultivated plants. This remarkable program was initiated in 1978 by the Royal Horticultural Society. At Sizergh, for example, one area near the greenhouses is devoted to growing many of the major *Osmunda* species and sports, including magnificent plants of *O. regalis* 'Undulatifolium' 'Cristata' and 'Gracilis' and 'Purpurascens.' In addition, large colonies of these Royal Ferns are naturalized around several rock garden ponds, offset by the delicate pastel flowers of *Astilbe* and *Campanula.* Exquisite clumps of Robert's Oak Fern (*Gymnocarpium robertianum* - rare in the United States) and most known cultivars of Hart's Tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium)* thrive here as they do in all the limestone areas of this part of England. Even the Castle mortar was resplendent with Wall Rue *(Asplenium ruta muraria.)*

The pteridological buffet continued on Saturday, July 13 with a rainy morning visit to Waithman's Nursery in Silverdale (Lancashire, on Morecombe Bay - which has a 12 mile tidal basin and the greatest tide differential in Britain). The nursery is owned by the legendary octogenarian Reginald Kaye. It is the oldest established nursery (since 1930) selling ferns and alpines in England. A real treat was having "Reg" Kaye (author of the now classic *Hardy Ferns)* - sharp and vigorous - show us around the private rock garden in the rear of the nursery. Here one could salivate over uniquely surviving specimens of many historically important varieties of Victorian Ferns, as well as prizes like *Polystichum stenophyllum* from the Great Wall of China (where many of us enjoyed another memorable foray during the International Symposium on Systematic Pteridol-

ogy in 1988), *Asplenium fissum* from the Swiss Alps, and *Woodsia ilvensis*, the rarest British Fern. Mr. Kaye's collection has been the source of many priceless plants in gardens all around Britain and conversely, has been the recipient of a sizeable number of British native species and varieties from the garden of Robert Whiteside, a founder of the British Pteridological Society in 1891.

The rain abated as we left the coast for the afternoon's fare at Fibrex Nurseries in Pebworth (near Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire). This 25 year old establishment, owned by Hazel Key, consists of a sizable number of greenhouses where a wide range of hardy and tender ferns are propagated and sold. Here we saw serious production of *Athyrium filix-femina* 'Victoriae,' *Adiantum pedatum* var. *japonicum*, and many interesting "scollies" (the affectionate term used by the Brits among us for the many cultivars of *Phyllitis scolopendrium).* In one house, baby fern sporelings were growing to transplant size in the tiny cubicles of endless liner trays. Fibrex also grows ivies, aroids, hellebores, and is home to The National Collection of *Pelargonium.* An entire greenhouse is devoted to the display of miniature, standard, species, and hybrid geraniums, including a large, orchid-colored specimen labelled "Duke of Edinburgh." Royalty is pervasive in Britain, even in its plants. The dazzling colors of the *Pelargonium* house were especially vivid next to the more monochromatic ferns. A delightful English tea break at the owner's home was complete with a commemorative, fernly decorated cake.



Sizergh Castle

A short walk from the nursery, in Pebworth Village Hall, a Centenary Fern Show was sponsored by the B.P.S. and Fibrex, with the judging timed to coincide with our visit. There we sampled a new array of ferns, expertly grown by B.P.S. members whose gardens were not part of the tour. Personal favorites of the writer were an exquisitely potted specimen of the American Parsley Fern (*Cryptogramma acrostichoides)* and a whole table of *Cheilanthes* species. There was also a fine educational exhibit of fern growing, from spores, through sexy gametophytes, to mature sporophytes - the complete cycle of alternating, free-living generations for which ferns are famous.

An elegant dinner at Stourport Moat House (Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire) and a good night's rest at this comfortable inn prepared us for our last day on tour. The first stop, Leinthall Starkes (Hereford-shire, near the medieval city of Ludlow), was at Martin and Hazel Rickard's impressive 300 year old house and garden. Rural English homes have individual names, rather than numbers. The Richards' is called "The Old Rectory" although it was never part of a church. The property is located at the base of a low hill at the southwestern end of the geologically interesting Ludlow anticline, and the garden climbs steadily behind the house, past a limestone grotto, to a lovely hilltop view of the pastoral (chiefly sheep raising) countryside. The sizable natural section of the Richard's land, where several British ferns grow natively (e.g. *Dryopteris filix-mas, D. dilatata, Polypodium interjectum, Phyllitis scolopendrium, Polystichum setiferum, P. aculeatum, Asplenium ruta-muraria* and *Ophioglossum vulgatum)* combines easily with a one acre cultivated section, in rock garden style, adjacent to the house. Here, National Collections of *Polystichum, Polypodium* and *Cystopteris* are

continued on page 11



Ferns at Lakewold Gardens

THOMAS GILLIES

Lakewold Gardens in Tacoma, at the edge of Gravelly Lake, provide a rich diversity of ferns for observation and study. This is so whether one is only just beginning to find excitement in discovery of the many faces and root systems of ferns, or is an experienced pteridologist eager to observe ways in which ferns and their allies can be used for enhancement of other plantings.

In 1990 Mareen Kruckeberg, Don Armstrong, and Jeanette Kunnen designed and planted a demonstration fern garden at Lakewold for the Hardy Fern Foundation (HFF). One of the special goals of HFF is the testing of fern hardiness in various environments. At Lakewold the HFF study garden lies at the east edge of the circle drive leading into Wagner House, and at the north end of the house itself. It includes some forty to forty-five species and varieties. To demonstrate compatibility of ferns with other plants, several species such as *Pleione* (hardy orchids), *Sanguinaria canadensis* (Bloodroot), *Trillium,* both eastern (Wake-robin) and western (Coast Trillium), and *Hellebores* have been planted among the ferns. A short winding path goes through the fern garden, from west to east. On the south side of the path near the house are North American natives. On the north side of the path is a selection of exotics native to other parts of the world.

Elsewhere in the gardens, the late Eulalie Wagner had long cultivated and nurtured a variety of ferns readily adaptable to northwest gardening conditions. She gave special thought and effort to several exotics that are exquisitely sensitive about what they will tolerate and what they will demand as their due by way of soils, rocks, drainage, and sun. Demonstrating special rapport with such ferns, Mrs. Wagner achieved smashing successes in surprising places. Witness, for example, the *Polypodium scouleri,* which rarely thrives away from coastal Oregon and Washington, among spruce trees. At Lakewold it is blissfully content in the crotch of the "Wolf Tree", a Douglas fir northeast of Wagner House.



Planning at Lakewold

L.R. Sylvia Duryee, Barbara Carman, Jeanette Kunnen, Suzanne Hattery, Sue Olsen

For lush examples of ferns that want their place in the sun, walk down toward the lake and the rock gardens. *Ceterach officinarum* (Rusty-back fern) amd *Cheilanthes* flourish here, enjoying what with lesser attention to creation of perfect drainage might well have been deadly to sun-loving ferns. One of Mrs. Wagner's most stunning successes — which includes ferns, perennials, shrubs, trees, and groundcovers — begins near the top of the east hillside and continues down toward the lake. Pools and falls of water spill gracefully down through giant rocks (nearly "measureless to man") brought into place many years ago. She has written that her inspiration for this lovely spot came to her on a visit that she and Mr. Wagner made to the gardens at Queluz outside of Lisbon. She was indeed inspired, and not the least of the area's charms is the use made of species of ferns suitable to her plan and appearing in this natural site. There is a magnificent stand of *Adiantum* (Maidenhair fern) looking cool and supple in its basins of water. Thick and beautiful spreads of *Blechnum penna-marina* (like dwarf Deer Fern) provide a dense and colorful groundcover offering shades varied from red and bronze to greens as the season dictates.

In addition to the forty-odd ferns in the HFF study garden, there are at least another eighty species thriving throughout the gardens, where their

use for accents and background, for emphasis and the enhancement of nature itself, create much interest. Happily, a brochure titled *Ferns at Lakewold* and prepared by Sue Olsen, President of HFF, is available in the Garden Shop for 30 cents a copy. It serves as an excellent guide to the use of ferns, as well as to some of the most interesting among the Lakewold collections.

For those who are willing to bear the weight of a heavy book, it is not amiss to carry along a copy of *Encyclopaedia of Ferns* by David L. Jones (Portland, Oregon, Timber Press, 1987). With first-rate text, illustrations, and color photographs, the work is of inestimable value for identification of ferns throughout the gardens at Lakewold.

Corydon and Eulalie Wagner acquired their 10 acre estate on Gravelly Lake in 1938. The property included one of the oldest homes in Tacoma, and had been the site of significant gardening development from early years. Mrs. Wagner has written that upon first seeing the gardens at Lakewold she was intimidated. Clearly, the element of awe thus recorded was short-lived and fleeting. A vision of what could be created in the gardens surely took hold of her, nourishing the dedication which was to last for the rest of her life. The basic structuve of the garden was already formed by the relationship of the house, the long, firmly laid brick walk to the tea house at the north end of the property, as well as by the perimeter fence and plantings. She brought to that structure a sure sense of color, of plant relationships, and of the usefulness of native plants, groundcovers, and shrubbery.

Like other gardeners in her own time and from, earlier centuries, Eulalie Wagner studied, observed critically, approached gardening as a hands-on enterprise, and had a thorough appreciation of where her plans would take her. Her husband's special interest was in conifers. Together they gathered rare seeds, whips, small trees — whatever they found on their travels that aroused their interest.

As the gardens matured, she increasingly took an interest in the rare and the unusual, thus taking advantage of the moraine that is ready-made in the lake areas around Tacoma. Her gift for design, and the keen intellectual interests she took in relating design to plants, ferns, garden ornaments, flora that are difficult to grow and nurture all contributed to the special charms of the garden. The seldom seen lent surprise as well as excitement to visitors, who then revelled in the joys of recognition and the sharing of these rewards with Mrs. Wagner.

From the first of April through the end of October, guided tours of Lakewold Gardens are available by advance reservation. Prices for tours are $4.00 for seniors (i.e. 65 years+) and $5.00 for others. To make reservations or inquiries, call (206) 584-3360.

Botanical Salmagundi

Dr. A.R. Kruckeberg

Reprinted from Douglasia with permission from the Washington Native Plant Society

We in the PNW have come to know at least three distinct forms of what has been traditionally called *Adiantum pedatum*. One form is the common maidenhair of moist, usually forested, habitats nearly everywhere below 2,000 feet. It has the tallest fronds with large, non-overlapping pinnae (leaflets). Then there is what I've called the "Venetian blind" form, nearly always in serpentine sites, usually wet, but often dryish at least at the surface of the soil. In contrast to the flat pinnae of the common maidenhair, the serpentine type has overlapping pinnae - thus, my descriptive not-so-common name. The third form is a dwarf maidenhair fern, possibly from the Cape Flattery area, but definitely from the outer coast of Vancouver Island. Up to now there were names reassuringly applied to each of the three forms: *Adiantum pedatum* for the common form, *A. pedatum* var. *calderi* for the serpentine form, and var. *subpumilum* for the dwarf form. Then comes the "mini-bombshell"; all our western ones are to be known as *Adiantum aleuticum*. The "perpetrator" of this new interpretation, Cathy Paris of the University of Vermont, has been making a study of what she calls the *Adiantum pedatum* complex throughout North America; she has not come to her current conclusions lightly. Her chemical, morphological and field studies show our western maidenhair to be distinct from the eastern North American *A. pedatum*. And our serpentine and dwarf forms are, in Paris's view, merely end points in a pattern of continuous variation. So get used to *A. aleuticum* as the binomial of choice for all our western maidenhairs. (The name *aleuticum* was first proposed, as a variety, by M.L. Fernald, the grand old man of Harvard botany.) Another maidenhair fern grows on eastern North American serpentines; it is given species level recognition by Cathy Paris: *A. viridimontanum*, which I take to be a "double-meaning" name: one for the "Green Mountain State," Vermont; and the other for the green stuff (serpentine) on which it grows. Then the old name. *A. pedatum*, now applies to the common, not-so-serpentine form in the east. Dr. Paris will soon be publishing her magnum opus on the *Adiantum pedatum* complex; we'll keep our readers posted.



From the Mailbag - Season's Greetings!

Christmas Cards are well and good
for those who like cold weather,
But we prefer the season when
the ferns begin to feather.

When from within their Winter crowns
the croziers start uncurling;
When reassured by warm Spring rains
the pinnae start unfurling.

Tho sending cards this time of year
may seem unorthodox,
the sentiment's more truthful:
Joyous Vernal Equinox!

GUY & JENNIFER HUNTLEY, MARTI MILLER OF HUNTLEY-GREEN

Yoknapatawpha Dreaming

BY SAMUEL TUMEY

(Editor's note: American Airlines sponsors an annual contest to see who can best imitate the worst of author William Faulkner - the Faux Faulkner Contest. Ironically I came across the following winner enroute home from the British Pteridological Society's Centenary Celebration. I later learned, to my delight, that Tumey is a member of the Hardy Fern Foundation. Reprinted from American Way Vol. 24, No. 15, Aug. 1, 1991. with permission from American Airlines).

SO, less for love of judicature than the need for sustenance, he lawyered weekdays upstairs on the square over the (long-vacant) chiropractor's office and circumperspicated between deeds, from his window over the hundred and fifty years of college students who came to study lust and idleness and learned — though grudgingly and with some remorse — much else; then Saturdays, alone in his ten acres of woods, relict of his grandfather's and his father's half-section, thirty-odd years asylum to such worthless and unrepentant species as might voluntarily grow there (a Snopes would call this tree farming, otherwise not) among the old rows and terraces and the futile and rusty bobwire, its fungus-crumbled unperpendicularity slackly setting off once-field from once-pasture — though by now it was all the same. And he had axed out trails by hand among the privet and devil's club, impermeably laced and Gordian-bound with thickets of honeysuckle and muscadine then at first God-scattering random wildflowers and fern spores only to find that none grew, and starting over again and again, wrenching them, the ferns, up from the loathsome snout-defiled soil by plain bovine will as his grandfather had tried to wrench nickel cotton or Sutpen his mansion (though none remembered the mansion or Sutpen and few his grandfather) and often they fed the bugs and cutworms or got dug up by armadillos and (himself gnawed upon by every genus and family of arthropod able to consume flesh or drink blood that could endure the taste of him, Sundays dogged by pain and fatigue, Mondays overcome by an abiding darkness) he would, come another weekend, be back in the woods, summer or winter, the seasons precessing seamlessly, a melancholy pageant of golds and greens and browns; until time justified his grim confidence that he could grow them all: where first Varner mules, then his grandfather's had plodded and strained (bastard ears flicking for news of the evening mill whistle down at Frenchman's Bend) woodfern and chainfern, Woodsias and Alabama lipfern adapted and flourished, then sensitive-ferns, bracken, serendipitous Scott's spleenworts, autumn cardinal flowers scattering of bloodroot and catchfly — and with every new introduction, his orphan law practice dwindled.

It was all vanity, a monument to impermanitude and transience. Even though he might forestall the chainsaws and the bulldozers — might by artifice, hold back the (omnivorous) amoeboid and mindless metastasis of parking lots and video arcades, the primeval, obliterating all-consuming lifeless shade must then hold sway, it was all vanity, all transcience, but he could ask no more than odds (cosmic at that) for there to remain in that distant post-millennium, when the red oaks, sweetgums, and tulip-poplars fell and rotted, the site scoured by flame and winter rain, that single unconquerable spore, unwinding prothallial threads down into the ash-littered, newly fertile soil, reborn to light, to replenish and colonize, find a niche and endure, leaving him, like Abraham, father to pteridophytic multitudes down the brooding and unfathomable ages.

Happy Birthday, B.P.S. - Part II
continued from page 7

lovingly tended by the Rickards. This garden was developed with ferns from many nurseries and old gardens, exchanges with other B.P.S. members (including the Coughlins), and spores from the wild as well as from the B.P.S. and A.F.S. exchanges. The Rickards also received half of Jimmy Dyce's collection, as well as plants from Robert Bolton, Jean and Jack Healey and the famous collector Christopher Fraser-Jenkins (Mexico, Jamaica, Hawaii, Europe and Nepal). A small nursery on the property specializes in propagating unusual fern cultivars. It was altruistic and brave, indeed for our hosts to place this remarkable garden on the menu of our ongoing fern feast. A difficult task was to pick a favorite morsel from so many beauties, but one that stood out by virtue of its brilliantly red stipes, rachides and sori was *Dryopteris purpurella,* aptly named and growing at the edge of the rock garden as we departed reluctantly.

We arrived woefully late for our last course - a savory dessert called Saville Garden (Windsor Great Park, west of London). This world-class garden of 4,500 acres is part of the 20,000 acre royal Windsor Estate, and is administered by the Crown Estate Commissioners. John Bond, Keeper of the Garden (also known as the "Queen's Gardener") was our cultured host and knowledgeable guide. According to Mr. Bond, a veritable "007" of the garden, the mission of Saville is to present to the public important and interesting plants. It is part of the N.C.C.P.G. as was Sizergh Castle. The Garden is laid out in large, planted beds separated by grassy "commons" areas, two large ponds and meandering footpaths connecting it all. Plantings are in three levels - a top story of trees (e.g. beech, magnolia,) a main "crop" of shrubs (like azalea rhododendron) and ground covers (perennials such as hostas, astilbes, and ferns). The ferns are thus interspersed throughout the grounds as part of this diversified plan. All the beds are heavily mulched (8-12 inches) with shredded leaves and other plant parts carefully gathered and recycled from the property. This appears to compensate for the somewhat lower rainfall in this part of England. There were outstanding populations of *Blechnum chilense* and *B. spicant, Woodwardia fimbriata,* and many *Dryopteris* species and hybrids, including a prized plant of *D. caucasica* from the collection of C. Fraser-Jenkins.

Aside from the magnificent ferns, we could not resist ooh! and ah! stops for an eye-catching clump of *Hemoracallis* "Golden Chimes" and a regal stand of *Hosta* "Tall Boy", a Saville exclusive (available from Wayside Nurseries in the U.S.) with a long flowering period and cerulean flowers.

The short trip back to Imperial College, our base in London, afforded an aperitif of reluctant *au revoirs* and grateful thanks to our many new friends, our hosts, and our patient coach driver, who thought initially we were somewhat eccentric, but ended up with an embryonic collection of ferns purchased for his own garden. Pteridomania had struck again and had clearly spread to all of us on this gourmet tour. Thank you again Martin Rickard!

Travel

Betsy Feuerstein of Adventures Unlimited offers annual tours to exotic adventurelands in South America. Her travels focus primarily on tropical explorations for the rare and unusual from our southern neighbors. The next expedition is coming up rather quickly with a departure date of May 24. For info write promptly to Betsy at 2357 Thornwood Lane, Memphis, TN. 38119 (901) 754-6271

Our scientific advisor, Barbara Hoshizaki, will be leading a fascinating tour to Australia and New Zealand from October 7 - 24, 1992. The diverse itinerary includes stops at a variety of native fern habitats as well as visits to nurseries and private gardens. Top tourist attractions such as the Great Barrier Reef, a Daintree River Cruise, and a Maori dinner and concert are also included. For further information write to ETA/PIUMA Travel, 21225 Pacific Coast Hwy., Suite A, Malibu, CA 90265.

Finally, there are still several spots left on the Hardy Fern Foundation's fall tour. Join us to see such favorite fern haunts as Bartholomew's Cobble, Mt. Toby, Willoughby Lake and Mt. Washington. For further information contact Paul Martin Brown, 15 Dresden St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-4407.

For Your Pleasure...

Sales Lectures Tours

Washington Park Arboretum Plant Sale: Saturday May 9, 10:00 to 5:00

North parking lot, Husky Stadium, Seattle, WA

Denver Botanic Garden Spring Sale May 8th & 9th

909 York St., Denver, CO

New York Botanical Garden Sale, May 8th & 9th, 10:00 to 4:00

At the Garden

Bellevue Botanical Garden Sale: Saturday May 16, 10:00 to 3:00

12001 Main St., Bellevue, WA

Northwest Horticultural Society Fern Festival: June 4 - 6

The 1992 NHS Fern Festival will feature Sylvia Duryee speaking on the Ferns and Flora of the Queen Charlotte Islands, Thursday evening June 4, 1992 at 7:30 PM - immediately following the Hardy Fern Foundation's Annual Meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA. The garden tour will be at the home of Judith Jones, proprietor of Fancy Fronds Nursery, 1911 4th Ave. West, Seattle from 10:00 AM to Noon Friday, June 5. The traditional plant sale follows from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on the 5th and from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday June 6th.

Birmingham Botanical Garden Fern Fiesta 1992 opens with a sale on June 16, followed by a fern show on the afternoon of June 17. Hardy Fern Foundation President-elect, Guy Huntley, will be the guest speaker at the evening program also on June 17. The Birmingham activities are at the garden at 2612 Lane Park Rd., Pelham, AL. For further information call the garden at (205) 879-1227.

Watch your newsletter for information regarding coming sales at Strybing, LAIFS (Los Angeles) and San Diego.

Note Our New Address!

Hardy Fern Foundation
P.O. Box 166
Medina, WA 98039-0166

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 4878